

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below.

1. **(Currently amended)** A system for communicating management information, comprising:

a first interface card **coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system;**

a second interface card **coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system;** and

a management card coupled to the first interface card and the second interface card, the management card operable to:

receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card;

establish a communication link between the client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client, ~~wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card;~~ and

communicate management information using the communication ~~link~~, **link,**
wherein the management card comprises:

a switch operable to establish the communication link between the client and one of a first port and a second port of the management card;

a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card; and

a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to:

receive the command;

determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information;

command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port; and
configure the management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the communication link comprises a serial communication path.

5. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card.

6. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.

7. **(Currently amended)** A method for communicating management information performed by a management card, comprising:

receiving a command from a client, the command identifying a particular one of a first interface card and a second interface card, wherein the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system and the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system;

storing mapping information that associates a first port of a switch with the first interface card and a second port of the switch with the second interface card;

establishing a communication link between the client and the particular interface card in response to receiving the command, wherein establishing the communication link comprises determining a port associated with a particular interface card using the mapping information and establishing a communication link between the client and the determined port using the switch ~~the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card;~~

configuring management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card; and

communicating the management information using the communication link.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, further comprising operating the client to generate the command and the management information.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the communication link comprises a serial communication path.

12. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.

14. **(Currently amended)** A management card, comprising:
a switch coupled to a first interface card and a second interface card, the switch comprising a first port coupled to the first interface card and a second port coupled to the second interface card, wherein:

the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system;

the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system; and

the switch is operable to establish a communication link between a client and one of the first port and the second port;

a memory coupled to a processor and operable to store mapping information that associates the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card; and

a processor coupled to the switch and operable to:

receive a command communicated by the client ~~a client~~, the command identifying a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card; **and**

determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information;

command the switch to establish a communication link between the client and the determined port ~~particular interface card, wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card; and~~

configure management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card.

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Original)** The management card of Claim 14, wherein the processor is further operable to communicate management information using the communication link.

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Original)** The management card of Claim 14, wherein the communication link comprises a serial communication path.

19. **(Original)** The management card of Claim 14, wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card.

20. **(Original)** The management card of Claim 14, wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.

21. **(Currently amended)** A system for communicating management information, comprising:

means for receiving a command from a client, the command identifying a particular one of a first interface card and a second interface card, wherein the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system and the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system;

means for storing mapping information that associates a first port of a switch with the first interface card and a second port of the switch with the second interface card;

means for establishing a communication link between the client and particular interface card in response to receiving the command by determining a port associated with a particular interface card using the mapping information and establishing a communication link between the client and the determined port, ~~wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card;~~

means for configuring management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card; and

means for communicating the management information using the communication link.

22. **(Previously presented)** A system for communicating management information, comprising:

- a first interface card coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system;

- a second interface card coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system; and

- a management card coupled to the first interface card and the second interface card, the management card operable to:

- receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card;

- establish a communication link between the client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client;

- configure management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card; and

- communicate the management information using the communication link.

23. **(Previously presented)** The system of Claim 22, wherein the management card comprises:

- a switch operable to establish the communication link between the client and one of a first port and a second port of the management card;

- a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card; and

- a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to:

- receive the command;

- determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information; and

- command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port.

24. **(Previously presented)** The system of Claim 22, wherein the communication link comprises a serial communication path.

25. **(Previously presented)** The system of Claim 22, wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card.

26. **(Previously presented)** The system of Claim 22, wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.